

**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY
CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA)**

Assistance Agreements for Near Coastal Waters (NCW) Activities

1. **AUTHORITY.** To approve grants or cooperative agreements to State water pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals for projects related to improving the environmental conditions of NCW pursuant to Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. These projects include national activities to assess the health of near coastal waters, including NCW pilot projects to demonstrate innovative management actions that address identified environmental quality problems, regional NCW assessments and special Agency initiatives, such as the Gulf of Mexico Initiative. Such NCW activities may or may not include one or more estuaries in the National Estuary Program (NEP) authority of Section 320 of the Clean Water Act.
2. **TO WHOM REDELEGATED.**
 - a. To the Director, Water Division, or equivalent.
 - b. To the Director, Regional Administrator's Division, or equivalent.
 - c. The authority under Delegation 1-14-A to execute the grants is redelegated through the Director, Mission Support Division, or equivalent, and through the Branch Chief, Grants and Interagency Agreements Branch, or equivalent, to the Section Chief, Grants Section, or equivalent.
3. **LIMITATIONS.**
 - a. The regional administrator or division director may exercise this authority for NCW pilot projects to demonstrate innovative management actions that address identified environmental quality problems in selected NCW, regional NCW assessments, and other special Agency initiatives such as the Gulf of Mexico Initiative.
 - b. Awards for NCW activities made by a regional administrator or division director under this authority cannot directly finance the development of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) under the National Estuary Program.
 - c. Approval of any research project by a regional administrator or division director will be given only with the assurance that recipients, when conducting such projects, will use research protocols commensurate with those developed by the Office of Research and Development.
4. **REDELEGATION AUTHORITY.**
 - a. The authority may not be redelegated.
 - b. An official who redelegates an authority retains the right to exercise or withdraw the authority. Redelegated authority may be exercised by any official in the chain of command down to the official to whom it has been specifically redelegated.
5. **SUPERSESSION.** This delegation supersedes R10 2-53 (07/11/2016) and any other

delegation of the same authority.

6. ADDITIONAL REFERENCES.

- a. 40 CFR 30, 31, 33, and 40.
- b. Any policy or guidance developed for near coastal waters activities.
- c. EPA Delegation 1-14-A.
- d. EPA Delegation 2-53.

May 16, 2019
Date

CHL
Chris Hladick
Regional Administrator